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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,235	02/25/2002	Yoshiya Miyazaki	SON-2366	1656

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GRAY, DAVID M

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/081,235	MIYAZAKI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
David M Gray	2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract is 2 paragraphs and is too long. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1 sets forth "a spring means which urges said flashing apparatus to said housing position." Spring 29 urges the flashing apparatus to the pop-up position. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and thus contain the same error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
6. Claim 3 sets forth that the "engaging means comprises a wire member." The engaging means is set forth in base claim 1 part of the "working member." As disclosed working member

11 has a hooking piece 13 as part thereof. The wire 32 is not part of the working member 11 and cannot be included as part of the claimed “engaging means” which is defined in claim 1 as part of the working member.

7. The claim phrase “an angle of a slope of said hooking member is designed to be larger than an angle of friction between said hooking member and said wire member” is unclear. The term “angle of friction” is not defined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakabayashi et al.

10. The claimed “flashing apparatus” is met by light emitting portion 26. The claimed “spring means” is met by springs 21 and 25. The claimed “working member” is met by levers 20, 22 and 28. And the “engaging means” is met by engaging portion 22a. The claimed “plunger” is met by magnet 13. When the coil of magnet 13 is energized, the permanent magnet releases lever 20, which due to the force of spring 21, causes disengagement of engaging portion 22a. The flash is then sprung to the pop-up position by spring 25.

11. Regarding claim 2, when the flashing apparatus 26 is raised locking pin 27 is also raised. Interlocked with this action is the rotation of levers 22 and 28 which causes lever 20 to return to a holding position engaged with magnet 13.

Art Unit: 2851

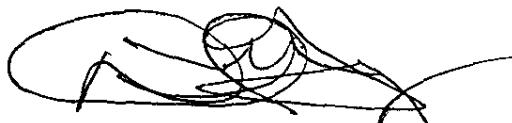
12. Regarding claim 3, the claimed "wire member" is met by locking pin 27. It is clear that the friction of the engaging portion 22a and locking pin 27 is such that engagement between the two is released when acted on by the lever 20.

13. Regarding claim 4, the claimed "photo button" is met by the shutter button which activates switches 1 and 3. The claimed "photometric means" is met by photo-electric element 5. And the claimed "flashing apparatus" is met by light emitting portion 26.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Gray whose telephone number is 703-308-1698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T & T-F 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.



David M Gray
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

February 20, 2003